

## N E W S R E L E A S E

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### **California wins \$15 million in training grants to keep its space industry on the leading edge of innovation**

Efforts by the Labor & Workforce Development Agency and its Employment Development Department paid off when the California Space Authority (CSA), an industry-led nonprofit organization in the state's Innovation Corridor, yesterday was one of only 13 regions nationwide awarded a \$15 million federal grant. The grant will be used to train workers for high-skill, high-wage jobs and keep California on the leading edge of America's space enterprise.

"Innovation, education and entrepreneurship – those are the keys that will open the door to challenging and rewarding jobs in the space enterprise industry for California workers," Governor Schwarzenegger said. "That is exactly what the California Space Authority is doing with its thoughtful strategy to keep California competitive in the global economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I am grateful to the Department of Labor for recognizing our state's potential and commitment toward staying in the forefront of innovative workforce development."

The Governor submitted the CSA's Workforce Transformation proposal for the WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) grant to the U.S. Department of Labor last month as a way "to advance our shared 'Demand Driven' vision for the workforce system."

The CSA initiative responds to the changing demands of the global marketplace: the need to train highly-skilled technical workers and to transform industries so they can quickly turn technological innovations into commercial products. To reach that goal, the initiative brings together industry, government, education, economic development and workforce development agencies.

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“This project will be instrumental in restructuring workforce development and education to produce world class 21<sup>st</sup> century technical workers,” said Andrea Seastrand, Executive Director of CSA. “The space enterprise industry has played a historical role in California’s economic development and we now have a unique collective opportunity to assist the industry in retaining and enhancing our global position in the marketplace.”

The initiative also deals with three other realities: the loss of traditional manufacturing jobs, a shortage of technical workers and a need for more entrepreneurial activity in the Innovation Corridor, a 13-county area stretching from the Bay Area to San Diego, the Inland Empire, and the Antelope Valley. The CSA plans to respond by speeding up the development of an innovative technical workforce, increasing entrepreneurial efforts and supporting manufacturers and suppliers in the space enterprise industry.

The CSA is one of only 13 regions nationwide to receive one of the WIRED grants, totaling \$195 million. The initiative is designed to encourage public and private entities to partner together on a regional basis and leverage their collective resources to attract new economic development.

The Innovation Corridor counties are: Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Kern, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside. The corridor also consists of 68 partnering organizations

The grant is administered by the state Employment Development Department under the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

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